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Approved For Release 2003/12/22 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700130010-5

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

File
835

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 15 SEP 50

SUBJECT Discriminatory Labor Conscription in North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. In spring 1950, the North Korean government issued labor mobilization orders to persons between 18 and 55 for work in mines, productive organizations, and construction projects. Persons of all occupations were included, but the group most affected were the farmers, who had to fulfill their grain quotas in spite of the extra tasks.
2. For mobilization, invitation notices are sent to all political groups in a town or village from the Central Committee of the Democratic Front through provincial, county, township, and village people's committees. At the village meeting, labor forces are chosen and assignments to various locations are made. Appointments to distant places are made first, and these always fall on the members of the Democratic Party and the Youth Friendship Party, on non-partisans, or persons whose families have migrated to South Korea. After these persons have been chosen to work in Manchuria and the USSR*, the short-term domestic assignments are given to members of the North Korean Labor Party, the Democratic Youth Party, and the Farmers' Union.
3. Short-term domestic assignments are usually for about twenty days and may be served in the home village or some near-by locality. The other group, however, serves a term of three months or longer and may be sent to Manchuria or the USSR for railroad construction work on the Vladivostok-Hongui (130-30, 42-25), Chongjin (129-49, 41-46), or Najin (130-15, 42-10) lines**; to port improvement work at Unggi (130-20, 42-20); or irrigation projects in South Hamgyong Province.
4. Labor conscription is unavoidable for persons whose families have gone to South Korea or who themselves have been in the south and returned. Some of these are first sent to perform military labor in such places as Songyo-ri (approximately 125-45, 38-58) and Chuul (朴斗) at Pyongyang before being transferred to various plants. One such returnee was sent from his home in Taepyong-ni (大坪里), Tokchon (126-18, 39-46) County to a factory in Komu-san (129-40, 42-05). He was visited by a relative who found him working in summer underclothing and fatigues in very cold winter weather and in miserable physical condition.

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Approved For Release 2003/12/22 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000700130010-5
Next Review Date: 2008

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5. A List of persons who have emigrated and of their families remaining in North Korea is kept by the Military Registration Section of the Bureau of Internal Affairs, which insures that such personnel are the first to be conscripted.

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